

IOWA OUTDOORS

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

www.iowadnr.com

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IOWA CAMPING AND RECREATION SEASON OFFICIALLY BEGINS THIS WEEKEND

DES MOINES - Memorial Day weekend marks the official beginning of Iowa's camping and recreational season and DNR staff are preparing for the large crowds at state parks and recreation areas.

Many parks, such as Gull Point, Viking Lake, Pleasant Creek, Brushy Creek and Lake Ahquabi are popular destinations for campers and campsites at these areas will fill quickly.

"All camping in Iowa's state parks, recreation areas and forests is on a first-come, first serve basis," said Greg VanFosson, north central parks supervisor for the DNR. "I suggest people call ahead to make sure sites are available if they are not planning to register until after Thursday." He also recommends that campers have a couple of alternate parks in mind in case their favorite park is full.

Campers looking for great scenery should check out Lake Wapello, Backbone, Pine Lake and Springbrook state parks. Recreational opportunities abound in these areas. The Memorial Day weekend marks the opening for the concession operations located at these four parks. The DNR also recommends that campers bring a supply of firewood, ice and charcoal, as most state parks do not have concession operations.

With the busy holiday weekend, it is important to remember to be courteous to other park users.

“Holiday weekends draw big crowds to our state parks,” says Sherry Arntzen, with the DNR. “Many people are eager to get out and enjoy the out-of-doors. Parks users should be respectful of each other to ensure everyone enjoys their stay.”

A number of out-of-the-way parks may be the perfect setting for campers wanting to avoid the crowded campgrounds. "Lake of Three Fires, Wapsipinicon, Pilot Knob, Lacey-Keosauqua and Nine Eagles state parks are beautiful parks that do not have the heavy camping pressure," says Arntzen. "The Explore Iowa Parks camping program is in full swing and offers campers the opportunity to earn prizes by camping in a number of different parks, including the lesser used parks."

Campers are also urged to watch the weather while camping and have a plan if severe weather occurs. Severe thunderstorms and tornadoes can occur quickly during the spring and early summer. If a storm does move toward a state park or recreation area, park staff will warn all visitors. Park users should seek shelter in the event of severe weather.

Many out-of-state visitors will be staying in Iowa parks and recreation areas during the Memorial Day holiday and local campers are encouraged to let their out-of-state neighbors know where safe areas are if a threat of severe weather occurs.

Clear Lake State Park campground will be closed this Memorial Day weekend due to campground renovations.

For information about camping rates at Iowa state parks and recreation areas, visit the State Parks Bureau website at www.exploreiowaparks.com.

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NEW LAWS FOR PERSONAL WATERCRAFT

By Joe Wilkinson

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

With cool temperatures, boaters have gotten off to a slow start this spring. With Memorial Day weekend and the traditional start of ‘summer’ in Iowa bearing down on us now, those boat ramps, lakes and rivers are filling up with crafts of all shapes and sizes.

That will include a variety of colorful, fast moving Jet Skis, WaveRunners and other brand name personal watercraft, or PWCs. Their growing popularity means countless hours of fun. It also leads to increased accidents. Nationwide, PWC operators make up about 10 to 15 percent of the boaters on the water. In a typical year, they also are linked to 40 to 44 percent of the accidents.

That's why younger operators on PWCs are under scrutiny. A new Iowa law requires operators 12 through 17 years of age to pass a water safety course before they climb on one of the machines alone. "A PWC is a small machine and a fast machine. It gets up to high speeds quickly," notes Department of Natural Resources conservation officer Kyle Jensen. "They don't stop as quickly as a traditional boat. Mistakes can come quickly. The speed and maneuverability that make them attractive, can also make them dangerous."

Jensen, newly assigned to Johnson County, spent the weekend patrolling Coralville Reservoir. Not many PWCs braved the 60 degree water, but a few zipped by the Mehaffey Bridge boat ramp area Sunday afternoon. Summer will bring a rush of activity, though. With it, will come a fistful of tickets, if those PWC operators are underage. "We will be writing citations, and giving the operator 30 days to send the officer proof that he or she has taken the course," emphasizes regional DNR safety officer Craig Jackson. "Even if they take the course after the ticket is issued, that's not a problem. We want to underscore the safety aspect. If they want to blow it off, we will file the ticket (in court)."

The home study course is available through the mail or on-line. But it *is* required reading for young operators. You can request it through www.iowadnr.com on line, clicking on the 'safety and education' prompt. "You can request a packet be mailed out to you," suggests Jensen. "Or, if it's Saturday afternoon, for instance, and you're going out on Sunday, you can take the course online right there. If you pass, you can get a temporary certificate to carry with you. The certificate is \$5. Taking the course on line will cost \$15 more."

At 19, Eric Meade of Oxford just misses the age requirement. With three years on his Bombardier, considers himself a safe operator. "I haven't really wrecked that bad; once last year, otherwise I don't roll them too often." The idea of mandatory course for younger kids, though? He says it makes sense. "Yeah, it does. I mean, they don't know quite what they're doing and they can come right across the front of you and make you roll. That little kid not knowing how to operate is not a good thing for the water."

Outdated Registrations Showing up on Early Season Boaters

It's an 'odd' year and that means Iowa boaters need a new registration sticker on their crafts. Angler and pleasure boaters getting on the water for the first time need to have the blue on white sticker, with the '05', showing the next expiration date. Several officers on water patrol ahead of Memorial Day, said it was the most common ticket they were writing. They also emphasize the need for life jackets, or personal flotation devices (PFDs) on board. "There needs to be a wearable PFD for each person on board. It needs to be the proper size, *and readily accessible*," emphasizes DNR recreational safety officer Craig Jackson. "Boaters need to make sure their fire extinguishers are operable and readily accessible, too."

Mega-Morel Making the Rounds

It started out as just another mushroom outing in Johnson County for Burl and Kathleen Matthes of Solon. “We’d been out mushroom hunting a couple times this year. When I spotted this one, we asked each other, ‘WHAT is that?’ It had apparently just come up.” ‘It’ is an 18 inch, 1¼ **pound** morel. The monster mushroom was awarded biggest morel designation at Houby Days in Cedar Rapids last weekend and has been going to work with Burl in Cedar Rapids and Kathleen in Iowa City this week.

“I’ve heard of some that were a little more than a pound,” recalls mushroom expert Dr. Lois Tiffany, of Iowa State University in Ames. “That one sounds big,” she admits. Tiffany co-authored the definitive mushroom manual, *Mushrooms and Fleshy Fungi of the Mid Continent United States*, following a 10 year field study from the mid 1980s to ‘90s. Tiffany feels the late blooming fungi is one of the *Morchella Crassipes* species; the ‘giant yellows’ that sometimes appear after the smaller ‘grays’ and ‘yellows’ or ‘tans’ that show up each spring in Iowa woodlands. Though she knows of no formal records, Tiffany says their study did yield a few that stretched 19 to 20 inches in length.

For now, the Matthes Morel is being kept in a cooler, with wet towels, while they decide what to do with it.

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CRP SIGN UP DEADLINE LOOMS – EXTENSION NOT GUARANTEED

DES MIONES – Time is quickly running out for ag landowners to participate in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) general sign up 26. The program sign up runs through May 30.

“We are down to eight working days for these landowners to get to their local FSA (Farm Service Agency) office and sign up for the program,” said Ken Herring, private lands program supervisor for the DNR. “CRP has the biggest impact on water quality and wildlife habitat in the state, bar none. If we want to make improvements to our lakes and streams, and provide pheasant and quail habitat, we have to do it on private land and this program provides excellent incentives to the landowner.”

The DNR is partnering with other public and private entities to get the word out to Iowa ag landowners. There are informational meetings scheduled over the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) for May 23 and 27. The meetings begin at 7 p.m.

ICN locations for the May 23 meeting include Elkader AEA, Charles City Community College, Jefferson High School, Winterset High School, Corning High School, and Centerville High School.

ICN locations for the May 27 meeting include Postville Middle School, Lake Mills High School, Pocahontas High School, Tipton High School, Adair-Casey High School, Osceola-Clarke Community High School, and Keosauqua High School.

For more information on the CRP sign up, contact Bruce Cordes at 515-254-1540 ext. 481, or Ken Herring at 515-281-5529.

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THE FUTURE OF FISHING IS BRIGHT

By Joe Wilkinson

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Warmer weather and the approaching outdoor recreation season means increased activity from 375,000 licensed anglers across Iowa. The pressure to provide services to them, though, eased a bit this spring with approval of a fishing license increase.

While anglers will be paying a couple bucks more for their fishing, the increase—requested by the Department of Natural Resources and approved by the Legislature—means Iowa's fishing programs have some needed breathing room. "The increase allows us to continue developing existing programs such as our trout program, walleye stocking in our rivers, channel catfish stocking," points out DNR fisheries bureau chief Marion Conover. "We can provide more fishing jetties, habitat improvement on the waters. We will not be standing still."

As anglers buy their 2004 licenses, it will be \$17.50 for a standard, resident fishing license. That includes the actual increase approved this year, and rolls in the (previously) separate \$3 habitat 'stamp' and \$0.50 writing fee. Other than the writing fee and 'roll in' of the \$3 habitat fee already being paid, the seven-day license available both to residents and non-residents (\$11.50/\$30 respectively) and the season non-resident license (\$39.50) remain the same. Conover is encouraged by creation of three short-term licenses, for the angler who might only go once or twice a year. "We have a new one-day resident license (\$8) and one or three day nonresident options (\$9/\$16)," says Conover.

That habitat fee, enacted a couple years ago, is split with county conservation boards. It is used only for improvements to fishing habitat, such as shoreline protection, development of land for fishing, etc. Other than that, it will be 12 years since the last increase in your fishing license, by the time this takes effect, in 2004. And while some anglers might begrudgingly pay the increase, Conover notes that good fishing doesn't just 'happen'. Most game fish caught in Iowa lakes and interior streams get there via stocking trucks and hatchery programs. Those programs, and other management and research work comes from a fisheries bureau staff with three less full-time employees

than 10 years ago. “There will be no staff expansion,” emphasizes Conover. “The increase is being directed toward the services and programs.”

Lake Macbride was a major beneficiary of those services in the last couple years. A \$2.5 million rehabilitation project has armored shorelines with rock, built fishing jetties and a silt dam, and created a variety of fish-friendly structure in the lake itself. “There will be more ‘Lake Macbride type’ projects,” declares Conover. “We anticipate more fishing jetties, habitat improvements on trout streams; continuations of what we have been doing, if money is available. We’re not standing still by any means.”

One of the ‘high visibility’ projects will be development of Lost Grove Lake in Scott County. Long anticipated as a premier fishing lake, the site awaits purchase of the last piece of real estate, on which a corner of the dam will sit. “The dam design is done, (however) without the increase, we would not have been able to move forward on that,” admits Conover. “We can proceed, as that (last) option is obtained, with things like construction, jetties and boat ramp work.”

Fishing access in urban areas will also improve. “We want to be more aggressive in providing access in fishing areas. We see that already with development of a fishing pier at Blue Heron Lake with the city of West Des Moines and a partnership with the city of Spirit Lake on an East Lake Okoboji pier,” notes Conover.

The increase on the horizon is designed to keep Iowa’s fishing future ‘in the black’ for those multi-generational anglers; whether they dip a line once a year, or get serious about it year-round.

Fish Facts

- 375,000 licensed anglers make more than 8 million trips each year, catching 40 million fish
- Anglers spend \$350 million annually on goods and services related to fishing. That spells an economic output of over \$728 million, supporting 7,000 jobs.
- Iowa sport fishing yields \$30 million annually in state sales and income tax receipts.

...But the Fishing’s Free Next Month...

There might be an increase coming down the road, however, the fishing is free during the first weekend in June.

Iowa’s free fishing days are June 6, 7, 8. That’s when Iowa residents forego the cost of a license, to give fishing a try. The idea is to introduce fishing to some one who has never gone, or who might not have been to the fishing hole in years. The free weekend includes a free pass on Iowa’s trout streams, too.

Though there is no license cost, all possession, length limit and other regulations are still in effect.

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FISH FREE JUNE 6 - 8

DES MOINES – Free fishing days in Iowa is June 6 – 8 and the DNR is encouraging all Iowans to get in touch with the outdoors. Iowa citizens are not required to have a fishing license during free fishing days but all other laws and regulations remain in effect.

“It is a great opportunity for family and friends to learn about fishing because there are a lot of great events and free fishing clinics going on during free fishing days,” said Barb Gigar, aquatic education coordinator for the DNR. “We have pretty good access to fishing everywhere in Iowa and this gives people the chance to get out and enjoy it without buying a license.”

Free fishing days draws attention to fishing as a recreation activity and to Iowa’s fishery resource. An Iowa Fishing Guide and fishing regulations are available free at all DNR fisheries offices.

“We are encouraging licensed anglers to take a friend or neighbor or relative fishing and expose them to how fun fishing can be. It is an activity that can last a lifetime,” said Marion Conover, chief of the DNR’s fisheries bureau. “We feel strongly that people who participate in natural resource outdoor activities are more closely identified with the issues and concerns of the environment.”

You don’t need a group of people or expensive equipment to go fishing, said Gigar. It is something people can do away from computers, television and cell phones.

“We hope these free fishing days can get young people in touch with the outdoors,” Gigar said.

If interested in fishing contact your local county conservation boards or recreation office and ask about their free fishing clinic. This three-day period of free fishing has been set aside by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in recognition of National Fishing Week, June 1-8. Iowa began having free fishing days in 1987.

For more information, contact Conover at 515-281-5208.

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IOWA FISHING REPORT

For the week of May 20, 2003

www.iowadnr.com

For current information on fishing conditions for your lake or area, contact the office in that district. Phone numbers are listed with each district report.

Northwest

Spirit Lake (Dickinson): Anglers are catching nice sized crappies at the Grade. Smaller crappies are being caught at Templar Park. Nice sized bullheads are being caught at the Grade using night crawlers. Smallmouth bass are being caught on a jig and minnow by anglers who are walleye fishing. Sub-legal largemouth bass are being caught around the lake. Walleyes are being caught on the east side of the lake and in the Marble Beach area. Most fish are below the 14-inch length limit. Use a night crawler harness and a jig and minnow combo. Anglers are catching northern pike on spinners tipped with a night crawler or a leech.

West Okoboji (Dickinson): Anglers are catching crappies at the trestle, Triboji, at the harbor and in the canals using a slip bobber, small crappie jig tipped with a wiggler. Walleyes are being caught using crankbaits at night in 8 to 10 feet of water. Remember to check the regulations with regards to walleye. Bass are moving into the canals to spawn and anglers are catching a few.

East Okoboji (Dickinson): Bullheads are biting at the north end. Walleye fishing is fair to good trolling crankbaits. Some sorting is necessary for keeper sized walleye. Anglers are catching some nice-sized channel catfish at the north end at the outlet by the fish hatchery.

Minnewashta (Dickinson): Crappies are moving in to spawn and the bite is on. A few bluegills are being caught. Bass are starting to spawn and anglers are catching a few.

Center Lake (Dickinson): Anglers are catching some nice crappies. The walleye bite is sporadic. Drifting live bait, pulling crankbaits or using leeches with a lighted bobber are all good choices.

Silver Lake (Dickinson): The walleye bite has been hit or miss, but a good number of keeper sized fish are available. On a good night, anglers will be quite satisfied.

Lost Island Lake (Clay and Palo Alto): Walleyes are still biting, but anglers will have to work to get them. Nice fish are available for the persistent anglers. The crappie bite is on.

Silver Lake (Palo Alto): Anglers are catching yellow perch and crappies. Good numbers of bullheads are hitting at the lake.

Lake Pahoja (Lyon): Anglers are catching decent sized catfish. Crappies are being caught on minnows. Bluegill fishing is slow, but anglers are catching a few fish.

Clear Lake (Cerro Gordo): Walleye fishing is fair. Walleye anglers drifting or trolling live bait rigs are catching a few fish. Yellow bass fishing is excellent. Fish in 1 to 4 feet of water along the north shore for the best results. Small jigs, minnows or cut

bait are all catching yellow bass in the 8 to 11 inch range. Bullhead fishing is also excellent. Use night crawlers on the windy shorelines.

Rice Lake (Winnebago): Fishing is excellent for 7 to 10-inch bullheads.

Silver Lake (Worth): Bullhead fishing is good. Use night crawlers off the fishing jetty.

Briggs Woods (Hamilton): Largemouth bass are hitting spinner baits and jigs along the vegetation edges. Bluegills are biting small pieces of night crawler and small jigs.

Eldred Sherwood Park (Hancock): Bluegills are hitting small pieces of night crawler and small jigs.

Black Hawk Lake (Sac): Fishing is excellent all over the lake for 8 to 10-inch bullheads. Walleye fishing is good on live bait either under a bobber or drifting.

Storm Lake (Buena Vista): Walleye fishing is good using twisters or live bait – especially leeches and night crawlers. Crappie fishing is fair to good, although spotty, on the west side.

North Twin (Calhoun): Fishing is excellent for 10 to 12-inch crappie in 8 feet of water. The crappies will move closer to shore as the water warms. Anglers are catching 9-inch bluegills on small lead heads tipped with wax worms.

Crawford Creek (Ida): Bluegill and crappie fishing is fair.

Brushy Creek (Webster): Crappies are on and off, depending on the weather, but there are good reports of 10 to 12 inch fish being caught. The best area is at the north end using live bait. Walleye fishing is good during the evening using live bait around rocky points.

For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.

Southwest

Green Valley (Union): Anglers are catching big crappies in the rocks and in 5 to 8-feet of water.

Fogle Lake (Ringgold): Bluegills are being caught on the spawning beds near the back of the bay area, west side of the lake. Crappies are being caught along the dam.

Binder Lake (Adams): Anglers are catching 8 to 11-inch crappies and yellow bass along the dam.

Loch Ayr (Ringgold): Anglers are catching 7 to 11-inch crappies along the dam.

Three Mile (Union): Anglers are catching walleyes on the points in 5 to 8 feet of water, and over the fish mounds. Channel catfish are being caught at north end and in shallow bays on night crawlers. Fishing is good for crappies in 6 to 10 feet of water over rock areas. Largemouth bass fishing is good.

Twelve Mile (Union): Channel catfish fishing is good at north end. Walleye fishing is good on the points. Crappies are moving into rocks and trees near shore on the west side of the lake. Anglers are catching lots of yellow bass. Largemouth bass fishing is good.

Wilson Lake (Taylor): Anglers are catching 10 to 12-inch crappies off the dam using black, slow moving jigs.

Little River (Decatur): Crappies, 7 to 10 inches, are being caught in the rocks. Larger crappies are coming from the mouths of timbered bays.

Slip Bluff (Decatur): Bluegill can be caught on spawning beds at the east corner of the dam.

Viking (Montgomery): Crappie fishing is good using tube jigs around structure. Bluegills are being caught along shore with small jigs and night crawlers.

Cold Springs (Cass): Crappie fishing is good using jigs/minnows around rocks near shore.

DeSoto Bend (Harrison): Crappie fishing is good along shore and rock riprap.

Manawa (Pottawattamie): Crappie and bluegill fishing is good along shallows and lagoons on jigs and minnows. Anglers are picking up a few bullheads and channel catfish.

Orient (Adair): Fishing is fair for 7-inch crappies using jigs and/or minnows along the dam.

Nodaway (Adair): Crappies are biting on jigs/minnows along the face of the dam and around structure.

Mormon Trail (Adair): Fishing is fair for large crappies.

Prairie Rose (Shelby): Fishing is good for 7-inch crappies on jigs/minnows around rocks and woody structure. Channel catfish are being caught on liver.

Willow (Harrison): Crappie fishing is good using jigs and minnows.

Big Creek Lake (Polk): Crappie fishing has been good to excellent with the warmer weather. Walleye fishing has been good using lead-headed jigs and minnows. Most walleye caught are below the 15-inch legal size limit. Bluegill fishing has also picked up around rocky areas and near woody structure. Channel catfish fishing has been good, with 2 to 3-pound fish taken.

Beaver Lake (Dallas): Crappie fishing has picked up. Try around woody structure along the shorelines. Largemouth bass fishing has also improved with the warmer weather using top-water lures.

Don Williams (Boone): Crappie fishing is excellent with the best fishing around woody structure in fairly shallow water. Most anglers are using white twister tails and minnows. Largemouth bass fishing has been good using top-water lures around shoreline structure.

Lake Ahquabi (Warren): Bluegill and redear fishing has been good using night crawlers or wax worms. Crappies are being caught using crappie jigs and/or wax worms or worms. Largemouth bass, primarily sub-legal sized fish, are being caught on crankbaits. A few channel catfish have been caught.

Hooper Lake (Warren): Bluegill and redear have been caught using traditional baits and lures. Some largemouth bass are being caught on crankbaits, although as in Lake Ahquabi, most fish are sub-legal.

Rock Creek (Jasper): The water has become quite turbid due to the heavy rains and fishing has slowed. Crappie fishing has been good from shore and boat using jigs and minnows. Most fish are 9 to 10 inches. Largemouth bass fishing has been fair to good using top-water lures.

Easter Lake (Polk): Crappies have been caught using jigs and wax worms. Some channel catfish are being taken in the shallower areas. Largemouth bass have been taken along the face of the dam, and walleyes have been caught off the dam and around the island.

Hickory Grove Lake (Story): Crappie fishing has picked up using jigs/minnows.

Saylorville Lake (Polk): Crappie fishing has been good in the marina area of the lake. Most anglers are using micro-jigs and wax worms, or bobbers and minnow combinations. Tail water: White bass fishing has been excellent below Saylorville using lead heads and twister tails.

Lake Red Rock (Marion): Crappie fishing has improved with the best action in the Whitebreast and Roberts Creek areas. Tailwater: Crappie and white bass/wiper fishing has been good in the tailwater from Lake Red Rock using jigs and/or minnows.

For more information on fishing in southwest Iowa, call the regional office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.

Southeast

Lake Darling (Washington): The bigger crappies are starting to move in. Late afternoon on a sunny day seems to be the best time to catch them. Plenty of fish in the 9 to 10 inch range. Yellow twister tails worked slowly or minnows and a bobber are the baits. The spawn is just beginning.

Lake Geode (Henry): Anglers are starting to catch crappies. Blue and white tube jigs tipped with minnows seem to be working best.

Lake Odessa (Louisa): The lake is high and muddy. The Toolesboro road remains closed and will be for a while. The Sand Run boat ramp is under water. The Schafer ramp is still usable.

Lake Rathbun (Appanoose): Crappies have been biting on minnows and small jigs suspended in about 2 to 6 feet of water. Channel catfish have been hitting on night crawlers and minnows.

Lake Miami (Monroe): Bluegills and crappies have been hitting on small jigs and minnows. The area around the dam has been the most productive along with the coves.

Lake Sugema (Van Buren): Crappies and bluegills have been hitting on small jigs and minnows suspended in about 3 feet of water. Largemouth bass have been hitting on a variety of artificial baits.

Lake Wapello (Davis): Largemouth bass have been hitting on a variety of artificial presentations. Bluegills have been hitting on small jigs in 6 to 8 feet of water around submerged structure.

Coralville Reservoir (Johnson): Anglers are catching crappies throughout the reservoir close to shore and in shallow brush piles on jigs and minnows. An occasional white bass is also being caught. Channel catfishing has been good to fair throughout the reservoir on dead shad and paste baits.

Lake Macbride (Johnson): Anglers continue to catch crappies and bluegills close to shore and over brush piles on jigs with or without worms and minnows and slip bobber rigs. Anglers are catching 1 to 1 ½ pound male walleyes in 6 to 7 feet of water slowly drifting a jig and minnow. Water temperature was 62 to 63 degrees.

Diamond Lake (Poweshiek): Crappie and bluegill fishing has been fair in shallow water and near brush piles. Largemouth bass are being caught off of artificial baits. (Anglers are reminded that minnow use is prohibited.)

Lake Iowa (Iowa): Bluegill and crappie fishing has been fair throughout the lake and around brush piles off the shore and from the boat.

Kent Park (Johnson): Bluegill and crappie fishing has been fair close to shore and off of brush.

Pleasant Creek (Linn): An occasional crappie and bluegill has been caught in deeper water on brush piles and pallet structures on jigs and minnows.

Iowa River (Louisa): The river is high and muddy. Anglers tried to run bank lines over the weekend but pulled them because the river was still rising.

Skunk River (Washington and Henry): The river at Brighton is starting to go down. The boat ramp is usable, but since the river just went down not much fishing has occurred.

Farm Ponds: Bluegill and bass fishing has been good.

For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.

Northeast

Mississippi River: The upper pools on the Mississippi River are at or near flood stage. Pool 10 was 614.7 feet Monday morning and was expected to rise another half foot before cresting Tuesday. **Pools 9-11:** Bluegill and crappie fishing are good in the flooded tree lines on minnows and worms floated along the trees. Freshwater drum fishing is excellent along the main channel borders and some catfish are being caught. Water levels in **Pools 12-15** are rising and expected to crest in Dubuque on Thursday. **Pool 12:** White bass are taking jigs in O'Leary's Lake. Freshwater drum and channel catfish are hitting night crawlers fished in the backwater areas out of the current. **Pool 13:** Channel catfish are good on night crawlers and prepared baits in the backwater areas. Middle and South Sabula lakes are good for crappies on jigs or minnows floated under a bobber and largemouth bass are hitting crankbaits. Crappies and white bass are good in Brown's Lake—float a minnow under a bobber in the shallows along the flooded timber. Crappies are also biting in Lower Brown's Lake. **Pool 14:** Largemouth bass fishing is good using spinner baits. Channel catfish are taking night crawlers and stink baits fished in the flooded backwater timber. Crappies are good on minnows fished in the flooded timberline.

Cedar River (Mitchell): Fishing for rock bass has been excellent on minnows. Walleye and smallmouth bass fishing is fair to good.

Cedar River (Black Hawk): Channel catfish are good on cut bait and dead minnows.

Maquoketa River (Delaware): Channel catfish are good on night crawlers and dead minnows.

Lake Delhi (Delaware): Crappies are hitting jig and minnows fished under a bobber in the quiet bays and coves. Channel catfish are biting on night crawlers and dead minnows.

South Prairie Lake and East Lake (Black Hawk): Crappie fishing is good using wax worm or minnows fished under a slip bobber around brush piles.

George Wyth Lake (Black Hawk): Largemouth bass can be found hanging tight to the woody structure.

Casey Lake (Tama): This lake is good for bluegill and crappie using jigs tipped with wax worms fished near woody structure.

Volga Lake (Fayette): Bluegill fishing is good on worms suspended under a bobber.

Lake Meyer (Winneshie): Good to excellent fishing for bluegill, crappies and largemouth bass. Bluegill fishing is best using a piece of night crawler on a small hook suspended under a bobber. Crappies and bass are hitting minnows.

Lake Hendricks (Howard) – Crappie fishing is good on jigs tipped with a minnow or small jigs. Bluegill fishing is good floating a chunk of worm 2 to 3 feet below the bobber along the rocky shorelines or weed lines.

Black Hawk and Buchanan county lakes: Crappie fishing is good on minnows and jigs. Northern pike are hitting dead minnows fished off the bottom.

Trout fishing and stream conditions are good. For current trout stocking information, contact the Big Spring Hatchery at 563-245-1699, Decorah Hatchery at 563-382-3315 or Manchester Hatchery at 563-927-5736. You can also view the trout stocking calendar on-line by going to www.iowadnr.com, clicking on **Fish and Fishing** and then choosing **Favorite Pages**.

For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.

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